

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 175610

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TAGS: AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL RE COMPOSITION OF UNISIST STEERING
COMMITTEE

1. UNISIST BUREAU IN APRIL MEETING AGREED TO SEEK
SUPPORT OF UNISIST STEERING COMMITTEE FOR FOLLOWING
PROPOSAL TO GENERAL CONFERENCE IAW ARTICLE 2(3) OF UNISIST
STATUTES WHICH GIVES STEERING COMMITTEE THE RIGHT TO MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING ITS MEMBERSHIP TO THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE.

2. PROPOSAL READS:"IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE
CONTINUITY OF MEMBERSHIP ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE. THIS
IS BEST DONE, IN THE BUREAU'S VIEW, BY RETAINING ALL 18
MEMBER COUNTRIES IN THE PRESENT STEERING COMMITTEE, ADDING
12 NEW ONES AND ROTATING ONE-THIRD OF THE MEMBERSHIP (I.E.
10 COUNTRIES) AT EACH SUBSEQUENT ELECTION. HOWEVER, IF
THE GENERAL CONFERENCE FELT THAT ROTATION SHOULD BEGIN AT
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PAGE 02 STATE 175610

ONCE, THE BUREAU WOULD RECOMMEND THAT ONE-THIRD OF THE

EXISTING MEMBERSHIP (I.E. 6 COUNTRIES) SHOULD BE REPLACED
AND 18 NEW COUNTRIES ADDED TO THE REMAINING 12".

3. BY LETTER OF 14 JUNE TO LEE BURCHINAL OF NSF, THE U. S.
DELEGATE TO THE UNISIST BUREAU AND STEERING COMMITTEE,
ADG KADDOURA, REQUESTED THE SUPPORT OF THE U. S. AS A
MEMBER OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THIS PROPOSAL.

4. PERMDEL SHOULD INFORM KADDOURA THAT THE U. S.
SUPPORTS THE PROPOSAL ON THE UNDERSTANDING EXPRESSED AT
THE BUREAU MEETING WHICH DRAFTED IT THAT ROTATION WILL
NOT PREVENT COUNTRIES WHICH REPRESENT THE MAJOR
INFORMATION RESOURCES OF THE WORLD, SUCH AS THE U. S.,
USSR, UK, ETC. FROM BEING DE FACTO PERMANENT MEMBERS OF
THE STEERING COMMITTEE. STATUTES OF THE UNISIST STEERING
COMMITTEE ALLOW IMMEDIATE RE-ELECTION OF COMMITTEE
MEMBERS AND LISTS AS CRITERIA FOR ELECTION OF NATIONS TO
THE COMMITTEE "THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE
UNISIST PROGRAM" AS WELL AS "THE NEED TO INSURE
APPROPRIATE ROTATION". UNISIST HAS ACHIEVED MOMENTUM
AS A PROGRAM AND AS A UNIVERSAL CATALYST FOR IMPROVING
ACCESS TO AND USE OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION
BECAUSE OF THESE COUNTRIES MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMITTEE
AND THEIR ROTATION OFF THE COMMITTEE COULD HAVE A
DELETERIOUS EFFECT ON THE UNISIST PROGRAM. KISSINGER

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